# More strange Newes:

Of wonderfull accidents hapning by the late ouerflowings of Waters, in Summerset-shire, Gloucestershire, Norfolke, and other places of England: with a true Relation of the Townes names that are lost, and the number of persons drowned, with other reports of accidents that were not before discouered: happening about Bristow and Barstable.

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# Behold the miserable

*estate of these poore drowned Creatures.*

BRITISH MUSEUM

These thirtie Townes and Villages in the West Country, are vtterly ouer-flowed, and their Cattell de-*stroyed, (or the greatest part of them) besides men, women and children, as appeares more at large in the following Discourse.*

Berrovve,
Alstone Marris,
Yatton,
Puxtone,
Combsbury,
Kingstone levvmore,
VVorle,
Ceustoche,
Banvvell,
VVieck,
Cleindon,
Portshed,
Portbury,
VVeston super Mare,
S. Georges,
Vphill,
Ken,
Stauenge,
Comerch,
Burnham,
Barrovv marke,
Limpsham,
South-brent,
East-brent,
Vole,
Breane,
Hunsfield,
Gremtham a Village,
Kenhouse,
Brian dovvne.

## An Addition of other and more ſtrange Accidents happening by theſe Flouds, and brought to light ſince the firſt publiſhing of this Booke.

THe true ſhape of ſuch monſtrous & prodigious birthes as theſe are, cannot at firſt be perfectly diſcouered: the body of this lies yet (ſome part of it) in the wombe, and till the Earth be fully deliuered of this burden of Waters, the true & liuely portraiture of this miſhapen Creature is not to be beheld. You ſhall now (notwithſtanding) looke vpon ſo much more, as Time and mens ſorrowes (meeting with their loſſes) haue brought forth, and this it is.

Whereas in this booke is ſet downe, that the Sea wonne ſo much ground about Barſtable and Briſtowe (which are fiftie miles a ſunder) without any particular deſcription what ground it was, you muſt now take this as a truth, that theſe Villages and townes are vtterly caſt away, or the greateſt part of them. viz.

Commerch (where is a paſſage ouer) hath now no paſſage at all but by water, for it is deuoured by the floud. Huntſpill a market towne, is quite ouer-flowne, and in it (beſides the loſſe of goods and cattell) xxviij. are founds drowned. Amongſt thoſe y hardly went away with life (in this towne of Huntſpill) the widdowe Cadwell was one, who was carried by the violence of the ſtreame three miles vpon the thatch of a houſe, and there taken vp aliue.

Sheepe on each ſide of the Riuer (beeing many thouſands) were drowned, beſides a number of Horſes, and other rudder cattell: for the ouer-flowing ſweld vp from Barſtable ouer Stoklins Marſh, and ſo ouer Sterr point, all along the Riuer on each ſide, to the towne of Bridgwater. A great part of the parriſh of Burnham is deſtroied, ſo likewiſe of the parriſh of Barrow Marke, of Limpſham, of South-Brent, and Eaſt-brent, and of Vole a Hamlet. The parriſh of Breane is ſwallowed (for the moſt part) vp by the waters. In it ſtoode but nine houſes, and of thoſe nine, ſeauen were conſumed, and with them xxvj. perſons loſt their liues.

In

In Berrow, fiue were taken vp dead. Alstone Marris stands in the same ranke of misery, so doth the parrish of Yatton, the hamlet of Puxtone, of Combsbury (being a parish also) a great part lyes hid in the Sea. So is the parish of Kingstone Leymore, where the waters are in the height of their pride, for there they lye deepest.

Adde vnto these the parishes of Worle, Cewstock, Banwell, Wieck, Clyuedon, Portished, Portbury, Weston super mare, and S. Georges; Vphill likewise, to increase the misery of this generall Inundation, had xi. dead bodies taken out of her, that perished by the waters. In most of these recited places, dyed some people, besides great number of cattell of all sorts. The parish of Kew, is now (as the Sea termed is) almost out of kenning: In this parrish stands a faire large building, belonging to the Lady Stauenge, who beholding the Sea readie to giue an assault vpon the towne, and all her poore neighbors in danger of drowning, did not presently prouide for the safety of her selfe and family onely, by trusting to the strength and height of the house which was able to defend her: but out of a true compassion and noble spirit, sent for so many of the inhabitants (to a great number) as with conuenience could escape and get in, for whom shee caused her owne seruaunts to prouide such victuals, as in such a place so distressed and besieged by so mercilesse an Enemy could be gotten. Shee was vnto them a good Nurse, and a good Land-lady: shee feasted her tennants so well, that they got their liues by it; when euerie eye stoode drowned in teares, (as the houses of the towne did in waters) her comfortable speeches wiped them of: much of her poore neighbors sorrowe went into her owne bosome to ease them of it, so that if they nowe enioy any thing, the glory of that worke must be set downe with her Name. Her great horses (in this terrible battaile) were brought into the Hall of the house, and there stood aboue the middle a long time in water, and so were fedde with such prouision as they could come by.

It is in another place of this Booke set downe, that a gentleman had seauen children drowned. But (Reader) because

so

(so neere as possibly I can) I would put into thy handes no false and deceitfull measures of these things, knowe that the Father, who receiued that sorrowfull discomfiture, and losse of so many babes, was a man of good estate, but no Gentleman, (his name Iohn Good, dwelling in Breane) and had but fiue children onely who were cast away. In the same tragedy died his wife, and all his seruaunts, beeing nine or tenne in number: he himselfe was carried the length almost of a mile, vpon a peece of the thatch of his house, & was saued by meanes of a banke.

In Berrow likewise, the house of one Iohn Stowles was throwne downe by the Water, he himselfe, with three or foure of his children drowned, but his wife and one of her sonnes, beeing caried two miles on the thatch of the house, were at the last driuen against a hay-rick by the violence of the wind, and there were found the next day and so saued.

A mayd dwelling in the same parish, as she was comming home from milking, was round about beset with the waters to the danger of her life. But the wench, climbing vp to a high banke, remained there xviiij. houres at the least, the sea oftentimes washing ouer her: and for her better comfort, (because they saw no house keeping neerer hand, a number of Rattes, Mise and Wants, swam in swarmes about her to saue theyr lines, no place for halfe a miles compasse beeing free from that ouer-flowing, but onely that where the poore Mike-maybe stood.

The day following, two lustie young men aduentured in two troughes (such as they vse in that Countrey to sell Bacon in) to fetch her off, and tho with much hazard of theyr owne lines, they saued hers, leauing the poore hungry vermine looking one vpon another, like so many drowned Rats.

The maine Armie of Waters that came marching, or rather galloping in vpon the Countrey, carried before them (a breast as the souldier sayes) the full breadth of a mile, the whole Countrey beeing couered about xvb. miles in compasse.

How this breach will be stopped vp and made good againe, it is hard to determine, for the Country cannot yeld meanes

to

to recouer it, because there are in that place and round about it, no stone (by which the fortification must be made) but only a few Willow trées and Elmes, so that it is to be doubted, much Land will neuer yéeld a harueſt to the Maiſter of it any more, nor hay to the ſuſtenance of his Cattle, but that Seamen hereafter talking of ſuch and ſuch a towne, when they ſaile ouer it, may ſay (if amongſt them they haue ſo much Latine, or fragments of Poetry) Hic Troia fuit.

To repaire theſe ruines of the Land, the whole Country is day and night at labour, the Juſtices are buſie and painful to ſée the buſines goe forward: their eyes are not onely Surueyors of this worke, but their hands alſo are ſometimes helping, ſo that for the fortifying of the broken bankes by Burnham, fiue hundred men are now daily kept in pay at ỹ charge of the Contry, for xij.d a day to euery Labourer, which comes to xyb. pound euery day. A ſecond meanes to impouerith the Country, if remedy be not otherwiſe taken.

Theſe tempeſts, as they haue beene ill winds to blow thouſands vppon the Rocks of pouerty and miſery, ſo haue they blowne ſome to profit: for Sea-faring men (if you will you may call them théeues) come daily in boates, and goe richlie laden away with goods which they find ſwimming vpon the waters: whoſoeuer haue loſt their Merchandize, theſe ſharks are ſure to make a fauing voyage of it. Then are there others that are Sheepe-byters, for they wander vp and downe, and finding ſheepe (ſometimes two hundred together) lying dead in a paſture) they rip them vp for the tallowe onely, but leaue the carkaſes.

And thus much of theſe miſeries that haue lately fallen vpon the Country néere Briſtowe, ouer and aboue thoſe which came to diſcouery at the beginning. Theſe were in notes deliuered vnder the handes of a Gentleman that is lately come from thence, and are all true. You ſhall nowe taſt of others, ſent by a Gentleman likewiſe, nowe dwelling in Barſtable, in a priuate Letter to the Secretary of a great Perſonage in this Land, and theſe they are, as hee himſelfe (almoſt word for word) deliuers them.

All the houses standing vpon the Key and neere to the Water side, are quite couered ouer with the flouds, insomuch that Cellers beeing richly stored with Wines, are emptied of their burdens, for the vessels swim vp and downe, and the Wines spoyled. Barges (like Water-coaches) are brought vp into the streetes, and to mens doores, yea great Barkes sayle vp and downe amongst the houses.

One building was ouer-throwne by the tyde, and in the fall killed a widdower and his two children, his next neighbours house was strooke downe to, but the people in it fledde and escaped the danger.

Ware-houses & Cellers, wherein were great store of Fish, Salt, Sugar, Spices and other commodities, to a great value, are now melted and layd in brine in salt waters. Walls in many places are beaten downe, and may serue nowe for causses to goe vppon. The new made building is nowe no building, for it is vtterly destroyed.

The losse that the towne hath receiued by these fore-saide Land wracks, cannot by coniecture of men be made good againe with three thousand pounds.

Many people that got from the perrill with their liues, are fallen sicke with the very feare of it, the Sea hauing destroied all meanes that should comfort them in this their distresse.

At Appledore many houses are ouer-throwne and sunck.

A Ship of some threescore tunne, beeing ready to hoise saile, and being well laden, was driuen by the breach of this tempest vp into a Parrish ground, some eight-shotte beyond all water-mark, and is likely neuer to bee brought backe againe.

Timber for Shippes, that lay as prouision in many mens hands, and in many places, is to a great quantity and value carried away.

All fences, hedges and walls bordering on the waters side, are washed away, in which wet skirmish, Maister Doctor Wolton hath receiued great losse.

There was seene vppon the water at Barstable an Apparition of Fire, strangly burning, and a Blacke dogge was seene to passe through one of the Arches of the bridge.

A good Barke might well haue sailed ouer some part of the bounds of the Sea, where (neuer before) the waters had any authoritie. The lamentable shrikes of Women, the cryes of poore Children, the astonishment and wild lookes of all men, at the suddaine Allarum giuen by this Deluge, no man can truly expresse.

Thus farre goes the reports of the Gentlemans Letter, bearing dated the xxi. of January, 1606 being the very following day when the Seas broke in: of which hee sayes (to vse his owne words) he was a Witnes, Partim visu, partim auditu.

## Of Gloceſter ſhyere.

AS touching the Flouds in Gloceſter-ſhyere, they haue béene great, déepe, and dangerous: the Sea rushed in at a place called Kingrode, deuouring with his waues all the Flat betweene that and Auſe, (being ten miles in length) ouerwhelming houſes, drowning people, & ſwallowing vp whole heards of Cattell in great numbers.

Betweene Auſe and Gloceſter, it ranne vp on each ſide of the Riuer, confounding whatſoeuer it encountred with. Sir Robert Woodroffe loſt foure hundred ſheepe, other men haue ſuſtained the like, and farre greater loſſes of their Cattell, to the vtter vndoing of them and their children, and to the impouerishing of the whole Country.

And let this ſuffice thée (good Reader) at this time, for a taſt of more newes: As the reſt of the Occurrences come to diſcouery, they ſhall be thine as ſoone as they are mine, if the Winter will ſo much be-frend thée.

Farewell.

# Newes out of Sum-

## merſetſhire.

(***)

ALbeit that theſe ſwellings vp, and ouerflowings of waters proceede from naturall cauſes, yet are they the very diſeaſes and monſtrous byrths of nature, ſent into the world to terrifie it, and to put it in mind, that the great God, (who holdeth ſtorms in the priſon of the Clouds at his pleaſure, and can enlarge them to breede diſorder on the Earth, when hee growes angry) can aſwell now drowne all mankind as hee did it at the firſt: But that by theſe gentle warnings, he would rather haue vs to come vnto him, and flye from the points of more deadly arrowes of vengeance, than vtterly to perish. He fits out the meaſures of his chaſticemet according to the quality and proportion of our offences, for as the waters trangreſſe and breake their bounds, to the deſtruction of the fruits of the earth, and to the taking awaye of the liues of man and beaſt, ſo haue we that ſhould be ſubiects to the Almighty King, and (by our oath of Chriſtianity) ought and are bound to pay fealty and allegiance to our Lord and Maiſter, gone beyond the bankes and liminits of all obedience, to the taking away of his loue, without which wee cannot liue, and to the vnrecouerable vndooing of our owne ſelues.

Sinne ouerflowes our own ſoules: the Seas of ſtrange impieties haue ruſht in vppon vs: we are couered with the waues of abhomination and vncleannes, we are drowned

in

in the blacke puddles of hellish iniquity: we swim vp to the throats, nay euen aboue the chins in conetousnes, in extortion, in sensualitie, in enuye one against the other, in contempt of our Maiestrates, in neglect of our Lawes, and in violation of those diuine statutes, the breach of which is a condemnation to death, and that death, an euerlasting liuing in hels fire.

Many a time haue we béene summoned to an account for these riotous abuses and misspending the tallents putte into our hands, we haue shifted it off with counterfet sorrow for what we haue done, and with promises to become faithfull seruants, and new men: yet grow we worse at noone then we were at the suns rising, and at his going downe he blusheth to behold vs in our nautines. To a strict and straunge audite therefore doeth God not onely call some of our Countrimen nowe on the sudden) but also to affright vs the more to make vs looke about, doth he strike our Cattle with diseases: he takes away the liues of our beasts fit for labour: he destroyes the Corne-fields, and threatens vs with famine: he vndermines our houses with tempests, to make vs feare a desolation. Read therefore, with trembling these histats dreadfull iudgements, and mocke not our selues with vaine hopes, but know that if earthly fathers may be drawne away to forget their owne children, our heauenly father may by the vilenes of our soules be drawne to shake off his owne people Listen then how hee menaceth, and stand amazed at the wonders of his wrath.

In January last (towards the end of the moneth,) the sea at a flowing water meeting with Land-flouds, strone so violently together, that bearing downe all thinges that were builded to withstand and hinder the force of them, the banks were eaten through, and a rupture made into Somersetshire. No sooner was this furious inuader entered, but hee got vp hie into the Lande, and encountring with the Riuer Seuerne, they both boild in such pride that many miles, (to the quantity of xx. in length, and 4 or fiue at least in bredth) were in a short time swallowed vp in this torrent. This inundation

uasion began in the morning, and within few houres after, couered the face of the earth thereabouts (that lay within the distance aforenamed) to the depth of xi. or xii. foote in some places, in others more. The danger that this terrible tempest brought with it wrought much feare in the hearts of all that stood within the reach of it, but the suddaine and strange cruelty of it, bred the greater terror and amazemēt. Men that were going to their labours, were compelled (seeing so dreadfull an enemy approching) to fly backe to theyr houses, yet before they could enter, death stood at the doores ready to receiue them. In a short time did whole Villages stand like Ilands (compassed round with Waters) and in a more short time were those Ilandes undiscouerable, and no where to be found. The tops of Trees and houses onely appeared (especially there where the countrey lay lowe,) as if at the beginning of the world townes had bin built in the bottome of the sea, and that people had plaid the husbandemen vnder the waters.

Who would not haue thought this had bin a second Deluge, for (at one time these inhabited places were sunk cleane out of sight. Hunsfield (a market Towne in the said Shire) was quite drowned. Grantham a Village vtterly ouerflowne. Kenhouse another village couered all ouer. Kingson a thyrd village likewise lies buried in salt water. So (besides other smal cottages standing in vallies) is Brian Downe a Village quite consumed. Adde vnto these peopled places, the losse of Marshes, Corne-fieldes, Pastures, Meddowes, &c. more then can be numbred: the misery of it no man can expresse.

In this cruill Warr betweene the Land and the Sea, many Men, Women, and Children, lost their lines: to saue which, some climbed vp to the tops of the Houses, but the rage of the merciless tyde grew so strong, that in many, yea most of the Villages aforenamed, the Foundations of the buildings being washed away, the whole frame fell downe, and they dyed in the waters: Others got vp into trees, but the trees had their roots vnfastned by the selfe-same destroyer, that disioynted barnes and houses, and their last refuge was patiently to dye.

A lamentable spectacle was it, to behold whole heardes of Catteil, struggling for life with the floods, Oxen in great numbers were carryed away with the streame, and looked like so many Whales in the Sea: their bellowing made a noyse in the water as if it had beene a tempest, and that the Sea had roared. The flockes of Sheepe that are vtterly destroyed by the Land-wracke are innumerable, none knowes the losse for the present but the owners of them: But the whole land will I feare feele the smart.

A number of most strange shapes of danger did this monstrous byrth of waters bring forth: of which (for the rarenesse) I will set downe some, and none but those that are true. There was a poore Man (a Householder) dwelling in one of the villages aforenamed, having seuen children: who (in this generall perill) not knowing how to helpe himselfe, was desirous to saue so much of his goods as possibly he cold: But the violence of the streame multiplying more and more vpon him: It came into his minde to prouide rather for his Children: his goodes therefore hee left to the mercy of that which hath no mercy, and loving one of his Children aboue all the rest, his feare draue him to run about for the safety of that one onely. At last the danger that had round about (and within doores) set vppon him and his family, was so great, that hee could neither defend that his dearest Child, nor the rest, but having much ado to get life for himselfe, he left thē and his whole household perrishing in the torrent, he getting vp to the top of the house, and so escaping. An Infant likewise was found swimming in a Cradle, some mile or two from the place where it was knowen to be kept, and so was preserued, for the Cradle, was not of Wicker as ours are here, but of strong thicke boordes, closely ioynted together, & that saued the Infants life. The ricks of pease in diuers places being vndermined at the bottoms, were lifted vp mainly from the ground, and swum vp and downe in the whole bulke, amongst which a company of hogs and Pigs, being feeding vpon one of the ricks, and perceiuing it to goe away more and more from them, they got vp to the top, and there

maintaind them in eating. Nay which is more strang, Connies in great numbers being driuen out of their borroughes by the tyde, were seene to sit for safety on the backs of sheep, as they swom vp and down, and at last were drowned with them.

A poore shepheard likewise being in the fielde, some of his sheepe were strayed from the rest, when the waters beganne to come in vpon the Country, which hee perceiuing, ranne with all speed to fetch them in, hoping to saue all: but before he had doone, hauing much adoe to saue himselfe, hee was faine to leaue them, and with his bag and bottle, to climbe vp into a tree: there he saw the confusion of his whole flock: they swom too and fro bleating for his helpe, hee sat tearing his haire, and beating his breastes: crying mainely out but could not saue them: when they were all slaine before his eyes, he wept then more bitterly to thinke vppon his owne tragedy which he saw was now to be acted: he feared drowning, yet hee feared staruing more then drowning: he had some victuals with him in the tree: but he new not how long this siege of waters would keep the in that rotten bulwarke. At length (when he was almost pincht to death with colde) espyed a boat which the Country had sent out to saue others, to that he talked, and in that recouered life.

## Bristow.

NOw bend your eyes vppon the Citty of Bristow, & there behold as much cause of lamentation as if any place of this realme, that hath tasted of the like misery. In the selfe same Month of January, and much about the very day, did an arme of the North Seas breake in (at a spring tide) which ouerflowed not onely the banks, but almoste all the whole Country round about.

All Brent-Marsh is quite couered ouer: also betweene Bar-

Barstable and Bristow the Sea swelled vp as hie as Brigdewater. All the low grounds are not onely hidden with this strange deluge, but in danger (by the opinion of men) to be vtterly lost. Whole houses were remoued from the ground where they stood, and float vp and downe like shippes (halfe sunke.)

Their Corne-mowes and hay-mowes are carried away with the streame and can neuer be recouered. All their fat Oxen that could not swim are drowned: with such a forcible assault did the Waters set vpon the inhabitants, that they who were in their houses, & thought themselues safest, could hardly make way for their owne liues: by which meanes a number both of men, women, and children perished: their dead bodies floate hourly about the water, and are continually taken vp: It cannot yet be knowne, how many haue fell in this Tempest of Gods fearfull iudgement.

Most of the goods both of Citizens here in London that were sent thether, and of the inhabitants dwelling there, as also the Rugs and such other commodity which came from Ireland, to the fayre of Saint Paule, which was now to be kept there, are (to an infinite value, and to the danger of many a mans vndoing) vtterly spoyled & cast away. Goods in dry-fats, & whole packs of wares are daily taken vp, but past all recouery euer to be good againe. This deluge hath couered this part of the country by the space of tenne miles ouer in length, at least vp towards Bridgewater. Many thousands of pounds cannot make good the losse which the Country onely hath hereby receiued. God graunt there ensue no second misery vpon this, worse to our kingdom, than this plague of Waters.

## The miraculous deliuerie of a Gentleman from death when it had round beset him in the midst of the waters.

A Gentleman dwelling within 4. miles of the sea (betwixt Barstable & Bristow) walking one morning to view his grounds, cast vp his eyes toward ỹ Sea-coast, & on the sudden was struck into a strange amazemẽt, for hee beheld an extraordinary swallowing vp of all the earth, that had wont to lie visible and levell to his sight: hee could scarce tell whether hee stood vpon the ground which he was sure the day before was his own: Hilles, & Vallies, Woods, Meddowes seemed al to be either removed, or to be buried in the Sea: for the Waters a far off stood to his iudgement many yards aboue the earth: he tooke them at the first for Mountaines and heapes of clouds, but feare being driuen backe (with a courage and desire in him to saue himselfe from this imminent danger) home comes hee with all speed that hee could to his owne dwelling: relates to his wife what hee had seene, and the assured perill that was preparing to set vppon them, and (with all) Counsels her and his whole Family to betake themselues, and to get (with such prouision and goods as they could easily conuay away) higher vp into the Country, to some one of his friends. All hands presently layd about them, (as if that enemies had been marching to beseedge the Towne) to trusse vp what they could and be gone.

But behold, how swift is mischiefe when God driues it before him to the punishment of the World? All were labouring to beare away some of the goods, but before their burdens could be taken vp, they were compeld to leaue them, and to looke about for their liues. The fardels which they had bound vppe to saue them from drowning, some of them were glad to leap vpon to escape drowning themselues. The

The Gentleman with his Wife and Children got vp to the highest building of the house: there sat hee and they vpon two rafters, comforting one another in this misery, when their hearts within them were euen dead to themselues from all comfort: they now cared not for their wealth, so they might but goe away with their liues: and yet euen that very desire of life, put him in mind to preserue something, by which afterward they might liue, and that was a Bore of Writings, wherein were certaine bonds, and all the euidences of his Landes: this Bore he got, with the hard aduenture of much danger: he tyed it with cordes fast to a rafter, hoping what wracke soeuer should ouerthrow the rest of his substance, his mayne estate should bee found safe, and come to shore in that hauen.

But alas in the midst of this sorrowfull gladnesse, the Sea fell with such violence vpon the house, that it bore away the whole building, rent it in the middle from top to bottome, they that could not get vp to the highest roomes, were put to a double death, drowning & drapning. In this storme the Husband & the Wife lost one another: the Children and Parents were parted: the Gentleman in this whirle-wind of waues, being forced from his hold, got to a beame, sat vpon that, and against his will rode post some three or foure Miles, til at length encountring with the side of a hill, (of which lighting place he was ioyfull) there he crept vp, and holding notstanding his safety still in his hand: there sate he inuironed with death, miserably powring out teares to increase the waters, which were already too abundant: & to make him desperate in his sorrowes, the tyrannous streame presented vnto him the Tragedy of his deere Wife, and deerest Children, Shee, they, and his Seruants were whorried to their deathes by the torrent before his face, and drowned doubly in his teares, and in the waues. Yet because hee should not be altogether the onely slaue of misfortune in this Sea fight, nor bee

more triumphed ouer then others that fell in the battaile. At length (a little to fetch life into him which was vpon departing) he spyed his Bore of writings (bound as they were to the rafter) come floating towards him: that he ventred once againe to saue, and did so, and in the end most miraculously came off likewise with his owne life.

## Of another Gentleman, that hauing a voyage to make on horse-backe, ended in riding after a strange manner.

THere was another Gentleman in the same Countrey likewise, who being newly married, determined one morning to take his Gelding, and to ride forth to a Towne not many miles distant from his owne dwelling, there to be merrie: his horse for that purpose stood readie sadled and bridled, he himselfe had drawne on one of his boots, but before hee could fit his Legge to the other, the winde came about, the point of his compas was changed, his voyage by Land was to be made by Water, or else not at all. For the Sea had so beggrt the house, broken in, lifted of the doores from their hinges, ran vp into al the Chambers, & with so dreadful a noyse tooke possession of euerie Roome, that hee that was all this while but halfe a horseman, trusted more to his owne legs then to the swiftnes of his Gelding.

Vp therfore he mounts to the very top of al the house, the waters pursued him thither, which hee perceiuing, got astride ouer the Ridge, & there resolued to saue his life, but Neptune belike purposing to trie how well hee could ride, cut of the maine building by the middle, leauing the vpper part swimming like a Flemish Hoy in fowle weather.

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The Gentleman being driuen to goe what pace that would carrie him which hee sate vppon, hold fast by the Eyles, and such things as he could best lay hold on, and in this foule weather, came hee at length (neither on horse-backe, nor on foot, nor in a Vessell fit for the Water) to the very Towne, where in the morning he meant to take vp his Inne.

A number of these strange Tragi-comicall Scenes haue beene acted vpon this large Stage of waters: It would swel into a Vasty Volume to Chronicle them all: let these therefore which I haue deliuered vnto you, bee sufficient, as a taste of Gods Iudgements: these are enough to make you know he is angry, let them likewise be inough to make vs study how to allay his anger.

Adde vnto these, the ouerflowings in Herefordshire, Glocester-shire, and in diuers Shires in Wales, bordering vpon the Sea, where many liues haue been lost, both of Man and Beast: of all which when the particulars are truely knowne, they shalbe truely published to our Country: till then make vse of these.

## Norfolke.

NOr let other Countryes insult ouer this: as if their robes of seeming purity (inuented by the Mtuel and his Journey-men) were a defence or Armour of proofe against the Iudgements of Heauen: they stand all within distance, this late and fearefull Inundation of water makes it apparent.

For iust the same month of the yeare, weeke of the moneth, and almost day of the same weeke. In the Country of Norfolke, not farre from Kings Lin, in a place called Marsh-land, happened accidents though not altogither so violent and mortall as those in Somersetshire, yet accompanied with much damage, and no little danger. About the 27. of this present month of

January Anno Dom. 1607. The chiefe violence of winter, being (as they by many rurall obseruations had quoted) almost spent: The Marishes, and Fens, by reason of the yeers temperature, somewhat drye, & more forward then in other yeeres, euery man to his abilitie, laid out what money he could spare vpon Heifers, and such other young ware, emptying their purses of Crownes to cram the Fens with Cattel, little thinking the water would haue made one, and like a new Broom haue sweeped all cleane, as shortly it did.

The Fens thus stored with Cattell, Horse, and Bullocks, for it is not vnknowne what hauoc the rot had made with sheepe in the beginning of Winter, which died in such abundance, that euen Dogges grew weary of them.

The rot hauing begun, and in a manner made an end of Sheepe, in comes the water as a second and more violent inuader, and sweepes away what the rot had left behind.

It happened vpon a night, (for when is danger more wakefull than when preuention sleeps, and not so much as dreames of his Furie.) A couple of Horse-coursers, or to attyre them in a courser litter, horse stealers, knowing the night, a gowne to cloake their villanie, came sneaking into the marrish with an intẽt to make a Market of what was none of their owne. And drane so many of the Cattell as they thought fit, vp into the highest grounds: but in the meane time they were hotly pursued with a fearefull Hu and cry, not of Constables, but swifter followers (Viz:) the water, which hauing broken out at an old breach, in a quarter of an houre, or a very little portion of time, ouerflowed the Marsh, and that with such vnresisted violence, that they were enforced to leaue their pray (which such fellowes seldome vse to do) fal to prayer, and to take them to their heels, and of all the Cattel in that Marrish, (being very many

remember) few or none were preserued, but those which they had fetched vp with an intent to steale: for being ouertaken, or rather ouerrunne by the swiftnesse of the Water, they were driuen some into Creekes, some into Bathes, & some into little Hillocks, and so either lost, dryuen away with the Water, or in conclusion drowned.

The two good fellowes (against their willes made good) Seeing what present danger, the water brought in with it, poasted to the Towne whether the Water (had they not made the more haste) had brought the men before them, Rayled the Sexton, got the Keyes of the Church doore, & (as the custome in such dangers) Jangled the Belles, and with a fearefull outcry, rayled the secure Inhabitants: who imagined some house to be on fire, rose vp distractedly in their Shirts, crying out Water, Water: of which Element (they were no sooner vp,) but they perceiued they had too much: Yet were they still various in their opintons, all fearing, yet none knowing truly what to feare: some got vp to the Steeple, many thinking there had beene theeues got into the vpper roomes of their Houses, shutting their safeties out, by locking themselues in. Some thinking it had beene but a slight ouerflowing of a spring tyde, laught at the rest.

The truth once knowne, it was no need to bid them make haste: to expresse how amazedly Men ran vp and downe, betwixt sleepe and wake, asking what newes, & receiuing no other answere but what newes, was frāgd. In a word, in this danger, euery man layed first hand of what he loued best, some made away with his Wife, some his Children, some careles both of Wife & Children hurried away his goods. He that had seene this troubles some nights worke, would haue thought vpon the miserable night of Troy. Here waded one vp to the middle loaded with wealth, when noting how the water increased, and calling to mind his hapless Children, with a sigh as loath to part from what he so deerly had loued

he throwes it downe, runs to bedde, wakens his wife, and from her sides snatches the sleeping infants. Here comes a Husband with his Wife on his backe, and vnder either arme an Infant. The Sonne carries the Father, the Brother the Sister, the Daughter the Mother, lightest the vnmercifull conqueror breakes downe the Walles of the Houses, taking pittie neither of aged nor Here, findes some at play, some a sleepe in Chayres, many in their beds, that neuer dreamed of misfortune till the Water waked them.

Not to stand long, the water gaue them but very short warning, yet like a merciful Conquerour, hauing taken the Towne, it gaue them their liues, at least all such as were willing to leaue their goods. Some couetous to haue all, lost all, for striuing to saue their goods, they lost their liues.

In this night-massacre some few were drowned, but their true names and certaine number, is not yet directly knowne. Vp to a hil some halfe myle from the Town they hasted, where that night, or rather peece of a morning, they reposed themselues.

The next day they might beyold their houses wading vp to the middles in Water, some calling for Boats out at Windowes, and from the steeples top, some swimming vpon plankes, some vpon Fetherbeds, whome as they possibly could, they relieued. Horses that were tyed to the Mangers, at the Mangers were all drowned, such as were loose swimming vp and downe, some recouered the land, some drowned in striuing to recouer it, whole Barnes of Corne, which the couetous owners hoarded vp in hope of a dearth, the Water discouered and brought forth. Houshold-stuffe which the night before they packt out of the Houses in hope to haue saued, swamme vp and downe, with drowned people so confusedly mingled, as men could scarse distinguish their goods, nor know their friends.

Nor did the Water thus confine his tyrannie, but loyte-

ring

ning with land Waters that fell from the high grounds, It inuaded two Villages more, but they hauing warning of the approach, though not power to withstand it, had time to preuent it, by conuaying all or most part of their goods and Cattell to the vpland Villages, leauing onely the emptie houses to the mercy of (that which is said to haue no mercie) the water.

Three Townes thus ouerflowed with water, could not but bring much losse to the poore inhabitants, yet to increase it, their Corne fields (and not onely these, but all alongst the coast and lowe Marshes of that Countrey, to the number of many thousand Acars in seuerall places & fields are tombd and buried in the huge graue of waters, that like a deuouring gulfe is neuer satisfied.

To this there is for the space of ten or twelue miles compasse Marishes and Fens cleane vnder water. The Cattell fed in those Marshes so suddainly taken, that had they not fled to an Hill, some halfe mile in compasse called Thruehill, few or none of them could haue escaped with life: yet being there, their safetie is very dangerous: for this hill being very high and narrow in the top, is like a Rocke in the Sea, girdled about with Water, so deepe, that on forte neither Man nor Beast can passe it, and yet not deepe enough to beare a Boat, by reason of muddy and old shrubs that grow in it: by reason whereof the poore beasts haue fed the Hill so bare, as it affords neither grasse nor wood, and so doe their hunger increase, and sustenance decrease, as they eat the tops of Molehils, and the very earth it selfe, and with lamentable bellowing complaine, and as it were make moane to their owners, who being willing can by no means releeue them. He that should see this pitifull famine of Beasts, could not (except he were to leasfall himselfe) but pitie it.

At last they made shift by cutting away through ỹ shrubs & bushes, to bring aboue a Ferry Boat to the hill, to which the Cattell would swim so thick, that they had much adoe to keepe it from sinking, others seeing their fellowes in the

Boat, would throw themselues into the water, and like people at a shipwracke, swarme so thicke about them, and offer such mournfull noyses, that pitied ỳ fellowes to heare, the Boat being ful, other striuing to swim after them, being weake, for want of sustenance were drowned at the Boat side. In pitie whereof, they concluded to fetch no more off, but in those boats conuay Hay, and such like fodder, to the Hill, and there feede them: such as are not too far spent and gone, by this means they hope to recouer, (notwithstanding the best helpe they can apply) they die in great numbers: the sight is to be pitied, the losse grieued at, and the iudgement to be trembled at. For with it, it brings this fearefull expect of a hard and sharpe dearth. For Corne and Cattell, the two chiefe hopes of bounty taken away, what else can we expect, but a fearefull ruine, and an inevitable desolation, which God for his mercies sake auert.

YOu haue all this while been Spectators of sad and tragicall euents, which now (euen by our friends, kinsfolkes, and Country men) haue been presented on the Theater of the world: It shall not be amisse to turne your faces, and to looke backe vpon the head of time that is gone from vs: weigh therefore those miseries that were measured out in the last Queenes raigne in the yeare 1570, with these in 1607, and you shall see our punishment greater, because our treason against God is more horrible.

## Bedford.

THe 8th of October about midnight, ỳ water ouerflowed so much, that men were faine to forsake their beds, & one woman drowned. Where also were lost a great number of Sheepe, Oxen, Kine, Horse & other Cattell. Amongst other there, one master Cartwrite Gentleman, hauing his house enclosed round about, the water came in so much, that a Cart being laden with Hayns, did swim about ỳ ground.

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He lost by the same Floud, Shéepe, and other cattell, to the value of an hundred pound. The same Gentleman had a close gate by the high wayes side, where the water ran ouer so extreamly, that at the fall thereof it made such a hole, that it was fortie foot déepe, so that no man could passe that way without great danger. To the filling vp of the sayd hole, or pit, was cast in by the men of the sayd Towne 25. loads of Fagots, and 20 load of Horse-dung, which sayd Fagots and Horse-dung filled not vp the hole.

Also one master Lée at the Friers in Bedford hauing a faire yard, wherein was great store of Elme-trées, whereof thréescore was blowne downe, with the rootes pulled cleane out of the ground. Also he had a close of Conies that were cleane destroyed.

## In the Countie of Norfolke.

THe Sea brake in betwéen Wis-bich and Walsocken, & at the Crossekeies, drowning Tilny, & eld Lin, S. Mary Teding, S. Mary Tid, S. Johns, Wawple, Walton, and Walsockē, Emney, Iarmans & Stow brink, al being within the space of ten Miles. At the Crosse-keyes the good man of the Inne had built an house, with a strong Foundation ioyning vnto another house being old, and not so strong, wherein were certaine Guests, and when the water came in so violently, the good man of the house being in the stronger house, called the men out of the old house, & they would haue gone downe the stayres, but the water was so high, that they could not get downe, wherefore they went backe againe, and brake an hole into the other house, where they went thorow, and the last man was no sooner in, but the old house fell downe. The wals of the houses were broken downe, & the horses that were tyed at the maunger, (which was made fast in the ground) did swim in the water, when the Stable was cleane caried away, vntill the waters were asswaged, and were saued aliue, and the people were con-

strained to get vp the highest parts of the house, and to be caried away in Boats.

At Yarmouth a great part of ỹ Bridge was caried away.

The house vppon the Yauen, called the Yauen-house, wherein was one Nicholas Josselin, the Yauen-man, and his son, with all their toles was caried into the Marshes 6 miles from the Yauen, where it stood vpright, where they continued long time without meat or drinke.

Item at Iermans brig street, was verie much hurt done by extreame flouds that were there.

Item one Thomas Smith of Yarmouth lost a ship, and 7 men and a Boy in it.

Item at Newarke by Yarmouth were lost 7 sayle.

Item a great Hulke loaden with Oyle and Pitch, was lost at Wozry sand, and about xx. men lost therein, and xxx. saued by the Hulke boat.

## In the Bishopricke of Ely.

THese Towns and villages were ouerflowed, that is to say, Wisbich, Guyhorn, Parson, Drove, and Hobshouse. This Hobshouse being an Almeshouse (and the water breaking downe the Walles of it) the winde blewe the cloathes of from the bed of a poore man and his Wife, they being acold awaked, and suddainely stept out of his bed to reach vp his clothes, and stept vp to the belly in water, and then he thinking himselfe to be in danger, (as he was indeede) and he knowing the best way to escape the danger of the Water, toke his wife on his necke, and carried her away, and so were both saued.

Item in Wisbich was a Garden, a Tenise Court, and a Bowling Alley, walled about with bricke (which was worth twentie li. by yéere to the owner) quite destroyed by the water.

## Lincolne Shire.

MAmby Chappell the whole Towne was loſt except thꝛée houſes.

A ſhippe was dꝛiuen vppon an houſe the Saylers thinking they had béene vppon a Rocke, committed themſelues to God, and thꝛée of the Marriners leapt out of the ſhip, and chanced to take hold on the houſe top, and ſo ſaued themſelues: and the wife of the ſame lying in childebed, did clime vp into the top of the houſe, was alſo ſaued by the Marriners, her Huſband and Childe being both dꝛowned.

Item the Church was wholy ouerthꝛowne except ẏ ſteeple

Betwéene Boſton and Newcaſtle were xl. Sea veſſailes, as ſmall Ships, Craiers, & ſuch like, loſt vpon the Coaſts of Boſton, Yummerſton, Marſchchappell, Tetney, Stepney, Mercots, Kelby, and Grimſby, where no ſhip can come in without a Pilate, which were all loſt with goods, Cozne, and Cattle, with all the Salt coats, where the chiefe and fineſt ſalt was made, were vtterly deſtroyed, to the vtter vndoing of many a man, and great Lamentation both of old and yeung.

Wentfoꝛd Bꝛidge béeing very ſtrong of viij. Arches in length, had iij. of the Arches bꝛoken, & cleane carried away.

Maiſter Smith, at the Swan, there had his houſe (being iii. ſtoꝛies high,) ouerflowed vnto the third ſtoꝛy, and the walles of the ſtable were bꝛoken dowine, and the hoꝛſes tyed to the Manger, were all dꝛowned.

Many men had great loſſe, aſwell of Shéep, Kyne, Oxen, great Mares, Coltes of the bꝛéed of the great Hoꝛſes, and other catteli innumerable, of which, the names of many of them ſhall here follow.

Maiſter Pellam loſt xl C. ſheepe, at Mumb chapell.

In Summercote were loſt v. C. ſhéepe that were of the Inhabitants there.

Item betweene Yammerston, and Grimsby were lost xiic. sheepe, of one master Spencers, whose sheapherd about midday comming to his wife, and asked his dinner, and she being more bold than mannerly, sayd hee should haue none of her, then he chanced to looke toward the marshes, where the sheepe were, and saw the water breake in so fiercely, that the sheepe would bee lost if they were not brought from thence, said that hee was not a good shepheard, that would not venture his life for his sheepe and so went straight to driue them from thence, both he and his sheepe were drowned, and after the water being gone: he was found dead, standing vpright in a ditch.

Maister Thimbleby, lost CC xx. sheepe. M. Dimock, lost cccc. sheepe. M. Parsh, lost ccccc. sheepe. M. Madison, lost a ship. M. William Askugh of Kelsey, sir Hugh Askugh. M. Merin. M. Fitz, Williams of Papelthorp lost by estimation xx. M. of cattell one and other.

Worne was ouerflowed to the midway of the height of the Church.

Steping, was wholy carried away, where was a waine lode of Willowe tops, the body of the waine with the willowes, carried one away, and the Axiltree and Wheeles, an other way.

## Huntington Shire.

IN the Towne of S. Eeds, the water flowed into ỹ towne in such abounndance, that it ran thorow the Towne and the Church, being in the midst thereof, hauing about the Churchyard a Bricke wall, of 2. yardes hie was so ouerflowed, that boats were rowed ouer it without touching the same. Item a little from Huntington, were three men riding vpon the causey beeing then ouerflowed (the water on the Causey being not deep, and thinking no danger therein) chanced to come into a place, where the water had gulled away the Earth, and the Grauell, were carried away with the water: and willowes growing on both sides the way,

two of them caught hold on the williowes, and left their horses, and saued themselues, and the third chanced to catch a very little twigge of a Willow betwéen his fingers, hauing very little hold, forsaking his horse, which was caried a great way from him, had much paine to kéepe hold on the twig, and hold his head aboue the wáter, and his horse returning with force against the streame, came againe vnto him, and vnder him, by which meanes he set his fóet vpon him, and gat better hold of the willow, and so saued himselfe, and the horse was immediatly carried away, that hée neuer saw him after.

## Kent.

AT Wrome hill, in Romney Marsh, fours miles from Rye, the water came in so outragiously, that it brake downe the Marsh Wals, one master Bury, beeing owner thereof, who lost by the same a thousand one hundred threescore and two of his shéepe, and it is thought that the Marsh is neuer like to be gotten againe.

Item, at Erith breach, a Mariner riding by the marshes, séeing twoo maides in the marshes perceiuing the Waters breaking in so fast, that the maides were not like to escape, rode vnto them, and one of them gat vp behind him, and the other toke hold on the horse-taile, and by that were both saued from drowning.

In the same marsh were drowned a great number of shéep.

Item, there in a marsh land that was sowne, were two Boyes kéeping Crowes, in the afternoone, saw the water breaking in so rashly, gat them vp into a cart, that was not far from them, whereby they were fain to tarry vntill the next tide, which came in so boystrously, that it had like to ouerthrow both the Cart and the Boyes, and the one of the being more stronger than the other, kept the other in his armes, where he with cold, wet, and feare, died, so that he was faine to let him fall from him into the water, when hée perceiued that he was past recouery.

The

## The Conclusion to the Booke.

THus Reader dost thou behold the woundes of thy bleeding Country: the sins of thy owne soule haue strooke it to the heart: there can be no better phisitian then thine own amendment: prepare thy receipts therefore least this mother of thine (and of many millions more) fall sicke to ỹ death. It is to be feared that this swelling of Waters in the wombe of this our beautifull kingdome, will ingender more strange & more incurable diseases, and infect ỹ whole Nation. The earth by this watering is likely to grow barren: Famine (in stead of fruit) doth threaten to growne in our fields: We must eate the bread of sorrow, and drinke our owne teares in stead of wine. Cast vp thine eyes therefore, and thy handes to the iudgement seat of Heauen, and with inflamed zeale strriue not only to driue vp those showres of the Diuine vengeance, that do now rayne vpon our heads, but those also which sleepe in the bosome of the clouds, to drowne vs in the depth of Gods Iudgement hereafter.

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*Farewell.*